

B<sub>2</sub> 11. (Amended) A method of countering load reaction forces in a pair of rigid structures affixed to opposing walls of a hoistway caused by a vertical load attributable to an elevator assembly suspended from said rigid structures, said method comprising providing a compression member; and positioning said compression member between points on said rigid structures from which said elevator assembly is suspended.

B<sub>3</sub> 14. (Amended) An elevator system comprising:  
an elevator assembly disposed within a hoistway;  
a pair of load bearing structures affixed to opposing walls within the hoistway and from which the elevator assembly is suspended by elevator ropes; and  
a compression member positioned between said load bearing structures in such a manner so as to counter non-vertical components of forces applied to said load bearing structures due to suspension of the elevator assembly.

B<sub>4</sub> 17. (Amended) An elevator system comprising:  
an elevator assembly disposed within a hoistway;  
a pair of load bearing structures affixed to opposing walls within the hoistway and from which the elevator assembly is suspended; and  
a compression member positioned between said load bearing structures in such a manner so as to counter non-vertical components of forces applied to said load bearing structures due to suspension of the elevator assembly.

B<sub>5</sub> 20. (Amended) The elevator system according to claim 18, wherein  
the elevator assembly comprises an elevator car and elevator ropes by which the car is suspended, and  
ends of the elevator ropes are suspended by the mounting brackets.